

intrest. Government should take suitable steps to come to reasonable settlement with the Contractor to avoid long protracted litigation jeopardising the completion of Sirsa aqueduct and resulting in unnecessary cost escalation.

- (v) Need to reconsider the import of rubber tyres, Coconut, nutmeg, cloves etc.

[Translation]

\*SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Palghat) : There is strong protest in Kerala against the new import policy of the Government. The Government has put the import of rubber, tyres, coconut, nutmeg, cloves etc. under OGL. This decision will adversely affect the interest of Kerala. If tyres are imported the intake of natural rubber produced within the country will decline. This will lead to the decline in prices. The same is the case with coconut, spices, etc. The condition of the coconut growers will be very deplorable. If the price of coconut comes down by a rupee per nut, the total annual loss that will occur is anybody's guess. The economy of Kerala depends mainly on these cash crops. A decline in their prices will ruin the economy of the State.

I, therefore demand that the Government should reconsider the import of these items under OGL. The import of coconut oil and copra should be banned and rubber should be imported only when absolutely necessary and that too through Government agencies. Similarly the coconut should be declared as oilseed.

It is requested that an early decision on these matters be taken

[English]

- (vi) Need for early disposal of stock of tallow and Fatty acid lying in warehouses.

SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura) ; It is reliably learnt that a huge quantity of Industrial Tallow and Fatty

Acid is lying in the Government Warehouses for the last five years involving a huge amount of foreign currency. I, therefore, demand that since the Industrial Tallow and Fatty Acid is not required in the country for internal consumption, the same may either be exported or it may be converted into Fatty Acid and distributed to the industries as asked for.

- (vii) Construction of bridge on Brahmaputra river to connect Sadiya with the rest of Assam.

SHRI GOKUL SAIKIA (Lakhimpur) : Sadiya is one of the most under-developed sub-divisions of India. No doubt, geographically Sadiya is situated in Assam but practically it has got no link with Assam. If a bridge was not constructed on Brahmaputra in near future, the people of Sadiya will be compelled to merge with Arunachal. No doubt, construction of a bridge on Brahmaputra will cost a very huge amount. So, I suggest that a rope way may be constructed to meet the requirements of the people of Sadiya.

- (viii) Demand for halts of Vanchinad Express at Tiruvella and Chengannur Stations in Kerala.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Idukki) : The Vanchinad Express running between Ernakulam and Trivandrum does not halt at Tiruvella and Chengannur at present. This reduces the usefulness of this train as the maximum number of passengers going to Trivandrum during office hours are from these two stations. It may be remembered that there are the two main stations in the Central Travancore region and usually the traffic from this region on any route is rather heavy. From the point of view of revenue for the railways as well as convenience of the passengers halts at these stations are very necessary.

I would, therefore, request that necessary instructions may be issued to provide halts of vanchinad Express at Trisuvella and Chengannur stations.

\*Translation of the Matter originally raised in Malayalam.